

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/001177

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 A24C5/34 G01N21/93 G01B11/10 G01N21/952

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 A24C G01N G01B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 758 742 A (AT & T CORP) 19 February 1997 (1997-02-19) * column 10, line 43 - column 17, line 5; column 19, line 50 - column 20, line 5; column 25, line 46 - column 26, line 8; figures 2 and 4A *	1-22
Y	EP 1 028 305 A (SCHLAFHORST & CO W) 16 August 2000 (2000-08-16)	1-10, 12-21
X	* paragraphs '0015!, '0026!-'0029!, '0031! *	23-29
Y	FR 2 256 394 A (ARMINES) 25 July 1975 (1975-07-25) * page 6, lines 7-23; page 7, lines 11-24 *	1-6, 9-17, 20-22

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

6 July 2004

Date of mailing of the International search report

16/07/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-22

Machine vision equipment incorporating automatic set-up means and method of setting-up said machine vision equipment

2. Claims: 23-29

Object made of a low reflectance ceramic material

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 0758742	A 19-02-1997	US CA EP JP	5768401 A 2179441 A1 0758742 A2 9126725 A		16-06-1998 03-02-1997 19-02-1997 16-05-1997
EP 1028305	A 16-08-2000	DE EP	19905778 A1 1028305 A2		17-08-2000 16-08-2000
FR 2256394	A 25-07-1975	FR	2256394 A1		25-07-1975